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More spying is feared at secret British base

LONDON (AP) — Geoffrey Prime, jailed for 35 years last month for spying for the Soviets, "continued to have access to sensitive material" even after resigning from Britain's top-secret Government Communications Headquarters, a British newspaper reported yesterday.

The Mail said Prime, 44, "frequently visited" the intelligence-gathering base at Cheltenham, 90 miles north-west of London, after quitting the headquarters in September 1977 following 18 months of service as a Russian linguist.

The paper said this had renewed suspicions in British government circles that other Soviet spies are still active inside the base.

Shortly after resigning, Prime joined a local taxi cab firm, Cheltax. The Mail said that while working for the company, Prime went back to the base "often several times a week."

One of the taxi firm's contracts, the paper said, was to transport local banking staff to a branch inside the complex where Prime worked. The paper quoted one former Cheltax driver, who it identified as Glynn Priday, as saying:

"We did the run several times a week. The security men on the gates knew the cabs and waved us past. Once inside we drove our way into the compound out of sight of the main security gates."

Cheltax employees also were called upon, the paper said, to drive computer tapes of intercepted codes between the top-security headquarters and its listening-post satellites in the west of England.

It said the tapes consisted of "raw, uncoded material picked up from Warsaw Pact radio communications."

Priday was quoted as saying this job was unpopular with most Cheltax drivers. But, the Mail reported, Prime was "always an eager volunteer."

As recently as October 1981, the paper said — four years after he left the headquarters — Prime made a secret visit to Potsdam in East Germany for a debriefing session with officers of the KGB secret police. "The obvious inference is that Prime was still providing active information which could have come only from inside the base," the paper said.

The Prime case was the most serious



Capt. Anatoli Zotov

in a spate of recent security scandals in Britain. Two other newspapers made new claims in the latest furor, the expulsion of the Soviet naval attache in London, Capt. Anatoli Zotov.

Government sources had said Zotov tried to use agents to obtain classified information but had failed to get material which harmed British security.

But the mass-circulation News of the World reported Zotov was "far more successful" than the government has admitted.